

REMARKS

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith to provide English language abstracts of documents previously submitted without English translation.

Appropriate fees are included with this submission.

Amendments to Specification

The specification has been amended to include subject matter headings.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 53 are amended to avoid improper grammar.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §112

Claims 35, 40, 41, 43, 65-72, 75 and 76 are amended to provide sufficient antecedent bases for all recited elements of the claims.

Other Claim Amendments

Claim 1 is amended to recite that the claimed system is configured so that log files or statistics about deviations or irregularities occurring during operation of the at least one bank note processing machine are transmitted to the service center over the network and the service center evaluates the log files or statistics and causes repairs to be carried out to wearing parts to be replaced before the at least one banknote processing machine fails. Support for this amendment is found on page 12, Example 15; pages 33-35, Examples 50-55 and page 35, lines 19-24.

Claim 10 is amended to recite that the service center is arranged to evaluate the data of the operators instead of data from the banknote processing machines. Support for this amendment is found in original claim 10.

The other claims are amended in minor respects to improve the statement of the inventive subject matter for which protection is sought and in particular to recite the structural configuration of the claimed system. These amendments are neither broadening nor narrowing, but are merely intended to improve the description of the invention in a

manner consistent with the original intended scope of the claims, which were translated from the original German language.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

The claims considered by the examiner were rejected as lacking novelty in view of U.S. Published Application No. U.S. 2002/0035541 (Makino). In view of the amendment to claim 1, it is submitted that the rejection of claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom is now moot and that the claim recites novel and unobvious subject matter in view of the cited art of record. Claims 2-10, 24-29, 31-38, 40-50, 58, 61-66, 68, 69 and 71-81 are patentable at least on the basis of the patentability of claim 1. These dependent claims also recite subject matter that is novel and unobvious over the cited art of record.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

With regard to the rejections of claims 11-20 and 22 as reciting subject matter considered to be obvious in view of Makino considered with U.S. 2002/0046061 (Wright), it is submitted that this rejection likewise is moot in view of the amendments made to claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 11-20 and 22 is respectfully requested.

With regard to the rejection of claims 21, 23, 30, 39, 51, 52, 53-57, 59, 60, 67 and 70, it is submitted that these rejections are now moot in view of the amendment made to claim 1, from which these claims depend.

In summary, none of the cited prior art documents disclose or teach a system according to claim 1 as amended according to which data is exchanged between a banknote processing machine and a service center, such data relating to deviations or irregularities with respect to expected conditions of the banknote processing machine. Moreover, none of the prior art of record discloses the evaluation of such data in order to timely cause repairs or replacements of wearing parts before the note processing machine fails.

It is to be noted, in passing, that Wallis U.S. 2001/0051884 discloses (see paragraphs [009 to 0019]) wherein the purchaser of a product may request a repair of the product during a warranty period via the internet. The data required for such request, notably, are present in the internet system of the vendor or a service organization. Also, the entire logistic handling is controlled via the internet. Accordingly, Wallis fails to teach that machine data and log files are transmitted over the internet and from such data a service center determines which

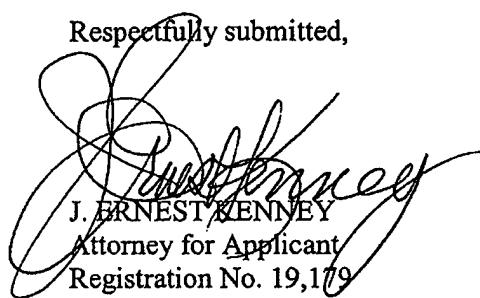
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parts may cause problems in the near future in order to replace or repair such parts before the actual failure of the product.

The application having been placed fully in condition for allowance, passage of the application to issue is respectfully requested.

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